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SIMON THE JESTER. By William J. Locke. New York: The John Lane Company. 1910.

The hero of this romance, Simon de Gex, a prosperous aristocrat and member of parliament, when informed that he has an incurable affliction which will surely end his life within a year, regards the stroke as a bit of sardonic humor on the part of Fate, accepts his doom in a matter-of-fact way, and resolves to do as much good as possible with what remains to him of life. In a disinterested endeavor to rescue a young friend from an entangling alliance with a woman animal-tamer, he himself falls a victim to her charms, learns to appreciate her really good qualities, and accompanying her on a Quixotic quest for her missing vagabond husband, has his social and political career blighted by the compromising tragedy in which he became an involuntary participant. Thus the way is opened for him to marry Lola, the animal-tamer, even though she has been cruelly disfigured by a vicious cat in her performing managerie, and both find community of interest and life purpose in charity work, which he had taken up in an idle moment.

Unconventional in plot and character, at times melodramatic and forced in the situations, the story is nevertheless full of sustained interest and is characterized by unexpected play of wit and humor. Like almost all the other novels of Mr. Locke, it sets forth the author's wholesome philosophy of life,—that there are good and human qualities in all men and women, no matter what class of society they may belong to. E. B. W.

NIAGARA TWICE SEEN AND OTHER VERSE. By William Norman Guthrie. The University Press of Sewanee Tennessee and The Robert Clarke Company of Cincinnati.

A little volume of verse admirable in typography, and in content characterized by the same spirit of bewildering impetuosity that marks the great cataract itself.